

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for preventing or reducing the clogging of filtration membranes used in particular in the treatment of effluents such as wastewater, characterized in that it comprises the addition of a natural organic adsorbent to the effluent for filtration, intended for trapping the molecules and particles which clog the filtration membranes.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said adsorbent consists of a biological floc having an average dry matter concentration lower than or equal to 2 g/l.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said biological floc consists of biological sludge issuing upstream of the membrane filtration installation.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said biological floc consists of biological sludge issuing upstream of a distinct treatment station, this sludge being injectable in particular into physicochemical potabilization stations for producing drinking water from freshwater, brackish water or seawater.

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~, characterized ~~in that claim 2, wherein~~ the biological floc is introduced directly into the filtration tank.

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~, characterized ~~in that claim 2, wherein~~ the biological floc is introduced into the effluent for filtration, before the filtration membrane.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, characterized ~~in that claim 1, wherein~~ the biological floc is fed continuously.

8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized ~~in that claim 1, wherein~~ the biological floc is fed in batches.